

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 03409 021611Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3712

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03409

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, UK
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BRANIFF FARES CONTROVERSY

1. HARDING LAWRENCE, CHAIRMAN OF BRANIFF, INFORMS US THAT HE HAS BY PHONE WITH WASHINGTON RECOMMENDED THAT THE PRESIDENT TELEPHONE THE PRIME MINISTER REGARDING THE PRESENT IMPASSE ON BRANIFF'S ROUTE TO LONDON. LAWRENCE SAYS HE DOES NOT THINK THERE IS ANY EARLY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IN SIGHT AND FEELS THAT THE BRITISH OFFICIALS HANDLING IT CANNOT BE MOVED WITHOUT WORD FROM ABOVE. HE HOPES THE PRESIDENT COULD CALL UPON THE PRIME MINISTER TO RECIPROCATE FOR RESPONSIVENESS WHICH HE UNDERSTANDS WE HAVE SHOWN TO EARLIER APPEALS BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON AVIATION MATTERS. LAWRENCE DID NOT INDICATE WITH WHOM IN WASHINGTON HE HAS COMMUNICATED.

2. COMMENT: WE CERTAINLY AGREE THAT THERE IS NO DISPOSITION ON THE PART OF BRITISH OFFICIALS TO GIVE IN AT THIS TIME ON THE LOW FARE ISSUE AS REGARDS BRANIFF OR OTHER ROUTES. WE WOULD FIND IT HARD TO PREDICT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REACTION IF THE PRESIDENT SHOULD CALL. THE INITIAL REACTION DOUBTLESS WOULD BE TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER, ALTHOUGH TRADE SECRETARY DELL MAY HAVE
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ALREADY URGED THE P.M. TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN ORDER TO PROTEST U.S. FAILURE TO OBSERVE CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES OF THE TREATY. WHILE WE SURMISE THAT P.M. MAY BE MORE SYMPATHETIC TO LOW FARE ARGUMENTS THAN SHOVELTON IS, HE IS BOUND TO BE DISMAYED BY U.S. PUBLIC THREATS OF RETALIATION WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION OR NEGOTIATION.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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